

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 19-23 are pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all of the previously pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,476,830 to Farmer ("*Farmer*") or as obvious over *Farmer*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,561,811 to Rapoza ("*Rapoza*"). In addition, the Office Action, at paragraph 2 on page 2, ostensibly rejects the claims over U.S. Patent No. 6,749,432 to French ("*French*"). However, this is believed to be in error, because references to a specific section of a document on pages 3 through 6 of the Office Action all refer to *Farmer*, not *French*. For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended herein overcome the rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

As amended herein, claim 1 now recites that each of a plurality of terminal computers included as part of a virtual world system is operable to *make an object available on the terminal computer* to be controlled by operations by the operator of the terminal computer. The object is made available when a predetermined condition is satisfied during execution of an application on the terminal computer. Each terminal computer also includes a control unit operable to permit the operator of the terminal computer to participate in the virtual world system and to *transmit the object* to a server computer included in the virtual world system, such transmission being under control of the operator of the terminal computer.

In turn, the server computer is operable to store the objects received from the plurality of terminals and display them in the virtual world on the plurality of terminal computers on the basis of operations by operators identified in information stored at the server computer. Such identifying

information is stored in association with the objects transmitted by ones of the terminal computers.

Clearly, neither *Farmer* nor the combination of *Farmer* and *Rapoza* teaches or suggests these features of the invention recited in the currently pending claims. *Farmer* merely teaches a virtual world system in which an operator uses a computer at a "client side" to obtain objects. However, *Farmer* neither teaches nor suggests making an object available on the terminal computer to be controlled by operations by the operator of the terminal computer when a predetermined condition is satisfied during execution of an application of the terminal computer. Neither *Farmer* nor the combination of *Farmer* and *Rapoza* teaches or suggests transmission of the object to the server computer under control of the operator of a terminal computer. *Farmer* merely describes the downloading of resources for a virtual object from a server computer to a client side computer (col.8 ll.58-61.). Clearly, transmission of an object from a terminal computer to server computer as recited in claim 1 is the opposite of downloading resources for an object from a server computer to a client side computer.

Moreover, *French* neither teaches nor suggests the features recited in the presently pending claims. *French* neither teaches nor suggests a virtual world system in which an object is made available on a terminal computer to be controlled by operations by the operator of the terminal computer, and in which the object is transmitted to a server computer, the transmission being under control of the operator of the terminal computer.

Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over all of the art cited in the Office Action to reject the claims. In addition, claims 20-23 contain similar recitations and are allowable at least on the same basis as claim 1.

Finally, as to claim 19, applicants submit that none of the cited references either teaches or suggests the features recited therein. None of the cited references teaches or suggests a server computer having an object record area operable to store object data received from ones of participant terminals of the virtual world in association with information identifying the operators of ones of the participant terminals having transmitted the object data and in which the server computer has a virtual world control unit operable to output the object display information for display of the objects using the object data stored in the object record area in accordance with the received information regarding the operations by the operators and the stored information identifying the operators. All other claims depend from claim 1, or one of claims 19-23, and are allowable at least on that basis.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 09/976,519

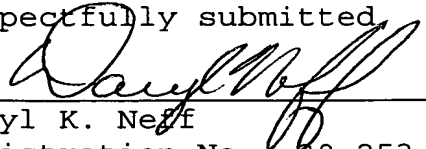
Docket No.: SCEI 3.0-091

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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